

# Until Raging Waters Subside Full Extent of Disaster Cannot Be Known

## DEAD FLOATING ABOUT IN RUINS; SCORES MISSING

(Continued From First Page.)

The fire destroyed eight buildings in the business centre of Dayton. Soon afterward notice was posted announcing that the city was "under martial law," and several companies of soldiers arrived from neighboring Ohio cities.

### Desperate Conditions Throughout Ohio.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, March 26.—It is feared that the death toll of the great flood that swept the Northern Ohio Valley yesterday and to-day may exceed 3,000.

Estimates of the number of dead in the flood and fire swept city of Dayton vary from 500 to 2,500. Scores of persons are unaccounted for, and many bodies are floating about the ruins, which will add materially to the death total.

At least 500,000 persons have been left homeless in the flooded territory of Ohio and Indiana, and the property loss may reach the enormous total of \$100,000,000.

The city of Dayton has been placed under martial law, with Major Smith, of the National Guard, in command. Additional militia has been ordered from various points in Ohio to assist in the relief work.

### Flood Abates, but Fire Continues.

While the flood has abated, the fire, which has burned during the day in the business centre of the city, continues, and thousands of persons who are marooned in the buildings are in peril. Dynamite has been used freely in blowing up many of the larger buildings, while the heavy downpour during the afternoon tended greatly to check the flames.

Indianapolis is threatened with a disaster almost as great as befell Dayton. Transportation with the city from all outside points is entirely cut off, and there is danger of a famine. Forty thousand persons are refugees from their flooded homes. Two hundred are reported

lives are reported lost, and a heavy damage to private and public service corporation property has been incurred.

Cincinnati is partially flooded, and the Ohio River has reached the fifty-foot level early to-night, and sixty feet is expected by morning. Thousands of persons have been driven from their homes and much damage done by the water.

Columbus is in total darkness, and railroad communication with the rest of the State has been cut off. Twenty-two deaths have occurred as a result of the flood. A panic occurred there to-day when the rumor that the great storage dam which furnishes the city with water supply had broken through the city. This was later found to be incorrect.

An unconfirmed report came from the town of Tiqua, that half of that place had been wiped out with a loss of 540 lives.

Youngstown, O., is facing a water famine, being entirely without a supply of drinking water. Heavy rains have occurred during the flood. Heavy damage to all railroad lines running out of here, including the Lake Shore, Erie and the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie.

Several persons are reported dead in the city of Ravenna, O., and thousands of dollars' damage has been done to property and railroads in that section.

Fifteen persons are reported drowned in Zanesville, O. Hundreds of families have fled their homes, while scores of others are marooned by the high water. The great bridge has been partially wrecked and it may be found necessary to dynamite it. The entire business centre of the city is under from two to four feet of water.

Terrible Conditions at Wooster. Ten persons have been drowned at Wooster, O., and the same conditions of devastation prevail here as in many other parts of the State.

At 1 o'clock this (Thursday) morning the Western Union Telegraph Company reported the total loss of its line of trunk wires between New York and Chicago in the vicinity of Toledo, O. All telephone wires were also reported as gone, completely severing communication between the two great cities of the country.

It is thought here that the Maumee River at Toledo, which has been rising rapidly, may have attained such a height that it has carried away several bridges at that city and with them the many wires connecting the West with the East. The telegraph and telephone companies reported no prospect of restoring any communication at this time.

This new interruption to wire communication adds a new element of seriousness to the Ohio situation. With the entire State a vast inland lake, and with railroads washed out practically with but one exception, news from the stricken cities in the vast flood zone is now practically unobtainable.

At this hour (1:54 A. M.) the only place reached in Ohio is Cincinnati. The wire of the International News Service in order to reach the city, was rigged up to run from New York through Washington to Richmond, and from there across the South to Atlanta. From there the line of wire stretched westward to Memphis and from Memphis to Nashville. The latter city having direct communication with Cincinnati.

Peru, Ind., is almost entirely under water, and a loss of 300 people is reported there. The flood still continues and terrible conditions prevail. The property loss is estimated at \$2,500,000. Seven persons are reported drowned in Terre Haute, and most of the residential district is under water. The damage is placed at \$2,000,000.

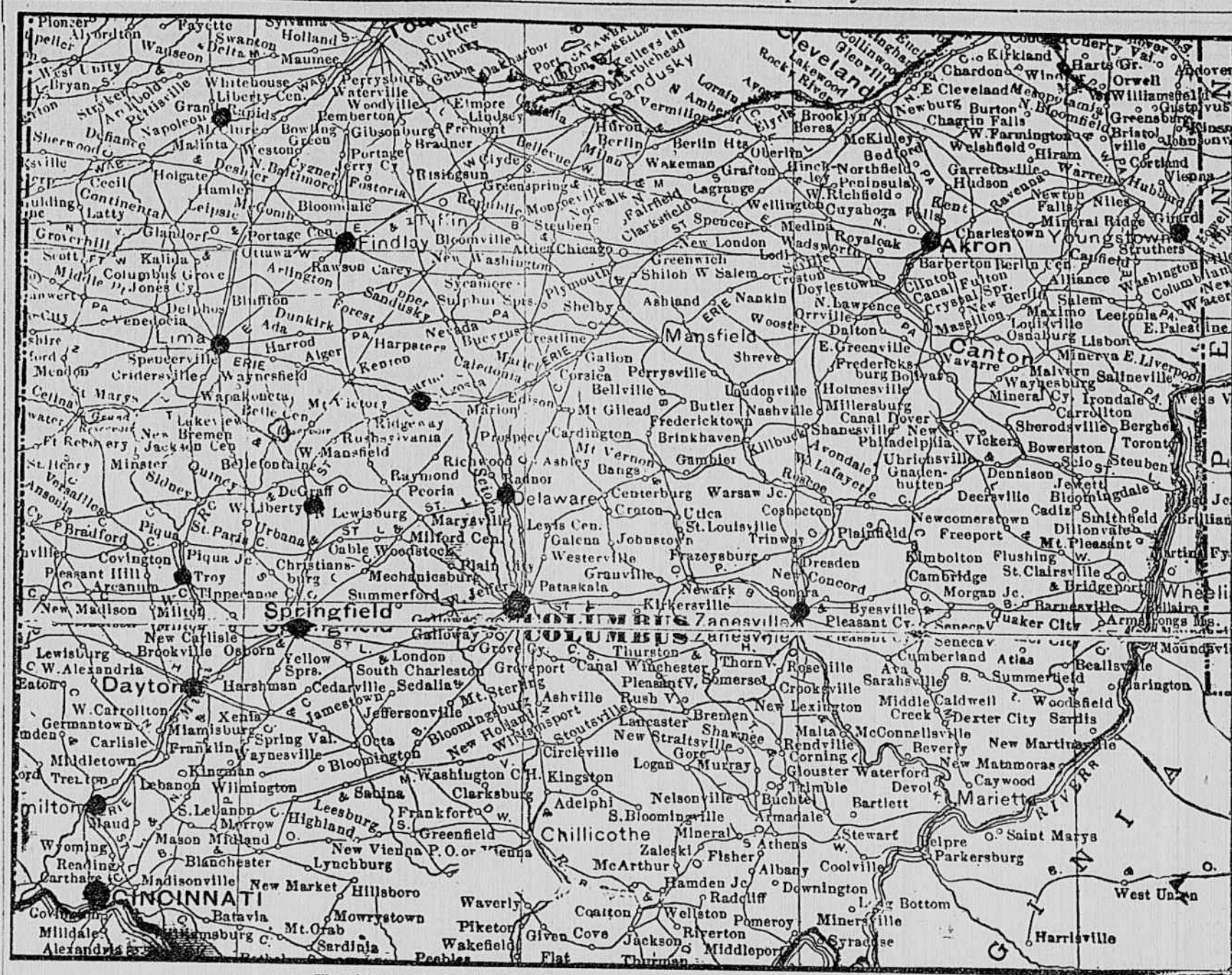
It was reported late to-night that 200 persons were drowned in West Indianapolis when a levee broke, and that part of the city was engulfed.

Six deaths have occurred at Fort Wayne, Ind., among them four little orphan girls who were drowned while attempting to escape in a rowboat. Four thousand families are now homeless, and the property damage is enormous.

Logansport, Ind., is flooded with fifteen feet of water, which extends over three-quarters of the city including the business and principal residential districts. School boys from the Culver Military Academy are aiding in the rescue work.

Pennsylvania Towns Suffer. Scores of towns and villages through Western Pennsylvania have suffered heavily from floods which have prevailed there for two days. Numerous

Map of Ohio Showing Cities Swept by Floods



The cities marked with black circles on map are the ones suffering most heavily.

the homeless. The Peru death list still is placed at from sixty to 300. It is generally admitted that at least twenty have perished in West Indianapolis, where the flood struck foreign quarters and poorer homes with overwhelming suddenness last night. Six deaths were reported from Fort Wayne, three from New Castle, two from Lafayette, one from Rushville, one from Muncie and five scattering throughout the State, in addition to definite reports of deaths in several places yesterday.

**Single Block Out of Water.** The most reliable information obtainable from Peru said that a single block of the city remains above the water, and that thousands are packed into buildings in a small area downtown. Six were said to have sufficed in the crowds at the courthouse, which still is out of water.

At Logansport flood waters of the Vabash are sixteen feet deep on the floors of the Pennsylvania Railroad station, and eucalyptus from the Culver Military Academy were rushed to Logansport to aid in the rescue and relief of scores of people marooned in the business district.

In West Indianapolis one pitiable tale after another added to the horrors of the flood story during the entire day. Night fell there on an uncompleted work of rescue after more than 500 persons had taken to a single landing station at Blaine Avenue and Morris Street, where facilities were increased by the high water. The great Y-cones. From three to four persons were brought in each boatload from the second floors of houses and from the roofs of one-story buildings.

Poorer classes constitute a majority

of the population in this section of the city, and nearly all of them lived in one-story homes, now covered by water. It is in this situation that makes uncertain the estimates of the loss of life, as there is no manner of telling how many entire families may have been trapped in these little dwellings.

Many women rescued in West Indianapolis were taken from their flooded homes unconscious or succumbed to the excitement after realizing they were safe. Physicians were unable to meet the demand for medical attention for the refugees, and worked at a great disadvantage, for all the flood victims

of the city were suffering from exposure, even after being removed from the water. Governor Ralston visited as much of this section of the city as possible, and the suffering he saw there, combined with reports of increasing disaster throughout the State, led him to prepare late to-day a proclamation to be issued to-morrow, calling for contributions of money, food and clothing.

Secretary of War Garrison offered assistance from the War Department, but Governor Ralston said he would not call for this aid unless Indiana citizens are not able to take care of the situation.

Indianapolis street cars remain standing in the streets, where they were stopped yesterday morning, when the power house was flooded. All interurban lines are at a standstill, and the steam roads are having poor success in getting trains out of the city. The water service probably cannot be resumed within thirty-six hours. All available water supplies are being taxed to the utmost to provide a scant supply of good water.

## THOUSANDS DEAD IN FLOODED ZONE

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hurled against them. The loss through cessation of traffic cannot be estimated.

Only Two Roads Maintain Communication. The Michigan Central and the Lake Shore, maintained communication with New York over their own lines, those farther south finding mile after mile of their right of way under fathom of water.

The railroads are planning to repair the damage done to their property as speedily as possible. Men and material are being rushed to every accessible point where damage has been reported, and active repair work will be begun as soon as the floods recede.

Telegraph and telephone wires in the stricken district are down. Long distance telephone service to Ohio was cut off with the exception of connections with Toledo and Cleveland. Wires through Indiana were down in many places, and some of the devastated towns were cut off from all communication.

### Serious Around Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 26.—A heavy flood is raging in a major portion of the Allegheny section, surrounding this city for many miles. Many suburbs have been damaged in some cases to an enormous extent. From Meadville, Oil City, Beaver Falls, New Castle, Sharon and other small cities in West-

ern Pennsylvania reports of several deaths by drowning and a heavy property loss are being received almost hourly. Thousands have been made homeless, and chaotic conditions prevail in all of the deluged towns. The water supplies and the lighting plants have been put out of commission entirely.

## TWENTY PERSONS LOST AT SHARON

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**Militia Stranded.** Lima, Ohio, March 26.—Thirteen carloads of militia from Lima, Ada, Van Wert, Canton, Bucyrus, Gallon and Kenton, eight companies in all, on their way to Dayton to aid in the flood rescue work, are stranded at Sidney, Ohio, to-night. Advances from that state that they will wait until morning, try for transportation to Piqua, and thence march to Dayton. A trainload of militia from Cleveland and Mansfield will reach Lima at midnight via Crestline.

## FIRE IS DESTROYING WHAT HAS ESCAPED RAVAGES OF FLOOD

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been many of the water's prisoners in the burned buildings. Soon afterward notice was posted in headquarters of the emergency committee announcing that the city

was under "martial law," and several companies of soldiers arrived from neighboring Ohio cities. The soldiers were employed to patrol edges of the submerged district and prevent further looting of homes freed from the flood's grasp. Up to a late hour to-night there had been no material difference.

**Frantic Work Done by Rescue Squad.** Rescue squads worked frantically to-day to throw back the veil that hides the true story of the Dayton disaster—the number of dead. Late to-night the arrival of motor boats gave hope that by to-morrow the northern section of the city, now cut off by the Big Miami's impassable barrier, may be penetrated.

and then may be learned the fate of hundreds imprisoned by the torrent that poured down from the broken reservoir.

The list of dead was added to this afternoon by the death of a refugee. It was reported late to-night that a number of dead had been found in houses at Fifth and Eagle Streets, but when rescuers worked their way into the partially submerged dwellings they found a number of the flood's prisoners who were weak from fright and hunger.

Already overburdened victims of the water's wrath were compelled to suf-

fer again to-day in a cold, smarting rain.

First that appeared to threaten the business section to-night was confined to the block bounded by Second and Third Streets. In the block are the Fourth National Bank, Lattiman Drug Company, Evans Wholesale Drug Company and several commission houses. It was impossible to get within two miles of the fire and from that distance it appeared that explosions, probably of drugs, made the fire seem of larger proportions than it was. It appeared to have about burned itself out, and it was not believed it would spread to other blocks.

Many Caught in Trap by Flood and Fire.

It was impossible to ascertain, even approximately, the number of persons who might have been marooned in this section, and who died after being trapped by flood and fire.

Nevertheless, rescue work went steadily on, and about 3,000 persons were housed in places of refuge to-night, the majority of them in buildings of the National Cash Register Company. At least 45,000 persons are imprisoned in homes and business buildings. It is feared their two days' imprisonment with accompanying hunger and fright have caused tremendous suffering.

Dayton was practically cut off from wire communication until late this afternoon.

Two carmen who braved the current that swirled through the business section of the city to-day reported that the water at the Algonquin Hotel, at the southwest corner of Third and Ludlow Streets, was fifteen feet deep. Fire windows in the hotel and business buildings hundreds of the marooned begged piteously for rescue and food. The carmen said they saw new bodies floating on the flood, but declared that many persons must have perished in the water's sudden rush through the streets.

Carmen who worked into the outskirts of the business section to-night reported that 250 persons marooned in the Arcade Building and 200 imprisoned in the Young Men's Christian Association building were begging for water.

**Shortage of Provisions Threatened.** A shortage of provisions was threatened this afternoon, when it was reported many relief trains bound to Dayton from neighboring cities had been stopped by high water. Every grocer in the city had been "sold out" before noon. It was believed that the relief trains might creep in during the night.

Encouragement was received in a message from the Mayor of Springfield to-night, who said he was sending six big trucks loaded with provisions, that should reach Dayton early to-morrow morning.

Messages from the flood's prisoners in the business section said children were crying for milk, while their elders suffered from thirst that grew hourly.

A report that the dam above Dayton threatened to break added to the city's terror to-night. If the dam breaks it will pour in a flood that will hold up rescue work for days.

## MORE SOLDIERS FOR RESCUE WORK

Phoneton, O., March 26.—(10:30 P. M.)—Major Smith, commanding the State National Guard, requested Adjutant-General Wood at Columbus to dispatch additional militiamen as soon as possible to aid in the work of rescuing the marooned persons in Dayton.

A committee on public safety has been organized by the citizens of Dayton, and are co-operating with Major Smith in the rescue work.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has established a telephone station at the foot of a telephone pole at the north flood limit on the outskirts of Dayton. This has been placed at the disposal of Major Smith.

Messages will be transmitted from survivors to relatives and friends outside as fast as possible.

## NO COMFORT COMES WHEN NIGHT FALLS

(Continued From First Page.)

most completely demoralized city in the great flood district in Indiana, but

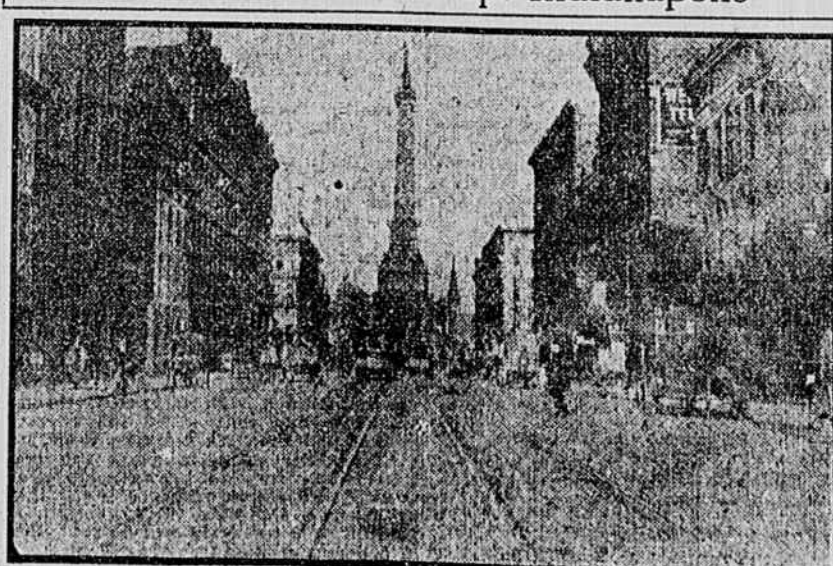
Logansport, Lafayette and Terre Haute have experienced loss of life and great property damage, with practically all public service destroyed in each of these places.

Indiana has a certain loss of life in the western part of the city from the great flood expanses along White River, and an inestimable real-estate loss in the most substantial residential districts through the overflow of Fall Creek. Water fell rapidly in the later district during the day, but there was no consequential abatement of the waters in West Indianapolis.

**Three Flood Districts.** Three distinct flood districts prevail throughout the State, each but a few miles wide, yet sweeping across the entire width of Indiana. In the north, all the towns and cities along the Vabash and its larger tributaries are affected. White River sweeps through central Indiana, with Indianapolis the greatest sufferer. White Water River drains a valley in the middle southern portion of the State, where many towns and small cities have been affected. Smaller streams throughout the valleys, all tributary to one or the other of the three principal rivers, are swollen and causing more or less damage.

Flood deaths may never be accurately known, and probably it will be several days before even approximately correct figures may be obtained. Efforts of all flood relief workers were directed to-day toward rescuing persons still in dangerous places and relieving the suffering and wants of

Scene in Flood-Swept Indianapolis



MERIDIAN STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

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